

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1865.

GEN. SCHOFIELD'S "JOY GUN."

An interesting Episode of the War in North Carolina.

A letter from General Cox's headquarters near Kingston, March 9th, to the Cincinnati Commercial, makes the following interesting note of Gen. Schofield's "joy gun":

Soon after our forces occupied Wilmington, a stalwart, intelligent negro called at General Schofield's headquarters and asked to see the General. He was shown into the room, when his mission was made known. He had gathered together hundreds of stout blacks and marched them from the interior, by night, through the thickets, swamps and forests. Not knowing whether our forces were yet in Wilmington, he left his men behind and scouted through himself, promising them that if the "Union men were in Wilmington, he would ask the General to fire a joy gun, when they were all to come in and join him."

"And now General," the negro said, "I find you good Union folks all here, and it makes my heart dance for joy, and won't you have that big gun fired. Oh, Master, it will make my mother cry when she hears that joy gun, and all the men will be glad, and will come in here and join your army."

General Schofield promised him that his "joy gun" should be fired, and the man went out waiting to hear its echo through the pine forests and hills. The General ordered one of the heaviest pieces of artillery in the fort to be fired.

That "joy gun" was fired; its echo is still ringing through these forests, and over these sandy plains. It was a joyful sound to those hunted fugitives, secreted in the swamps about the city. It called them from their hiding places, and in hundreds they came, with strong arms, and what is better still, with joyful hearts—willing and anxious to do what little they could for the power that had broken off their chains, and freed them from the shackles of their task master. They are enrolling their names to-day, on the recruiting lists of this great army of free-men, and clad in blue and with Yankee muskets, they will be foremost in the grand army, now marching for the death struggle.

That gun, that was a joyful messenger to them, was heard by hundreds of others, fleeing from the advancing armies of the Union. It did not call them in, however. It quickened their speed and carried them farther away from the power they dared not meet. Their arms were full as strong and able to do duty for the old flag, but their hearts were bitter in their hatred of that flag. In this they differed. One was black, the other was white. One was loyal, the other disloyal. The joy gun rallied one class about the flag, while it drove the other from it. Other joy guns are being fired. The hills and valleys of North Carolina are echoing to the sound of thousands of them. They are joy guns to one class, while they ring with despair for another.

THE FLOOD AT PITTSBURG.

The Alleghany higher than was ever before known—Innumerable Losses, Exciting Scenes, Great Peril, &c.

(From the Pittsburgh Commercial, 1861.)

We are now in the midst of what promises to be the greatest and most disastrous freshet that has ever occurred in the Alleghany Valley since the memorable flood of 1832. The people residing in the immediate vicinity of the city have been prepared for it, and their precautions will therefore, save them the usual disasters resulting from a sudden rising of waters. During the day, yesterday, the most painful rumors were afloat in the city, relative to disasters by the flood in Oil City, Franklin, and other towns along the river. Houses with their residents in them were reported to be carried off from Oil City, and part of the town of Franklin swept away by the angry water. The Alleghany river, at this city, commenced rising rapidly on Thursday morning, and continued to swell during the night and yesterday at the rate of about six inches per hour. At dusk last evening the water had risen to twenty-seven feet, and the lower portions of Alleghany were completely submerged. A large number of families were compelled to vacate their dwellings, while many others removed their effects to the upper stories, and held communication to the main land by means of skiffs and small rafts. The excitement was intense, and the abutments and footwalks of the St. Clair street suspension bridge were crowded with people anxiously gazing upon the rising waters.

Events that Threaten Our Destruction.

(From the Springfield Republican.)

The increase of intemperance in the last four years has been most rapid and alarming. We are fast becoming a nation of drunkards. The fact that this and all kindred social vices inevitably attend a state of war should not make us indifferent to the evil or hopelessness of its removal. Drunkenness prevails in a fearful extent in the army—among the officers much more than the rank and file; and if the disasters and losses occasioned by this one thing during the war could be picked out and set by themselves, the army would be most startling. The increase of drunkenness in Congress has of late been very painful and evident, and the license of the capitol and the capital have come up like a wave of desolation sweeping over the whole land. The generation just coming to the age of manhood are exposed to fearful temptations on every side, and the current sets so strongly downward that all efforts to arrest it seem nearly hopeless.

It is time to make a stand against the evils that threaten our destruction. Let us throw up entrenchments and hold what ground is still left to us, or we shall soon be hopelessly in "the last ditch." Social corruption will do us more injury than the war. If there is any vital force in our morality, any saving power in our religion, any real efficiency in our Christian and reformatory institutions, now is the time to make it manifest. Unless we can stop the progress of drunkenness, licentiousness, gambling, and general social debauchery that is setting in upon us, the war will give us a Union saved by the destruction of its people. It will be a thousand times more costly in loss of men than in money.

The loss immediately around the city is confined principally to oil barrels, a large number of which were floated off. Workmen were engaged until a late hour last night in removing barrels from the wharf, and it required the utmost exertion, in many instances, to save them, owing to the rapid rise of the river. It is impossible to estimate the damage which has been sustained, but it will be very heavy.

No paper currency below five cents is to be allowed in circulation hereafter, and the three cent "fractionals" are to be withdrawn. By the recent law authorizing the coining of three cent nickel and copper pieces, these coins are made a legal tender for sixty cents, and the one and two cent coins are legal tenders to the amount of four cents.

LAND SALES.—A report from the St. Croix Land Office, shows that during the quarter ending Sept. 30th, 1864, that the amount of land entered at that office was 17,205 acres. Of this amount, 4,834 acres, was railroad land, for which \$2.50 per acre was paid.—*Hudson Times*.

AN ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

His Views of Slavery and Negro Soldiers in the Rebel Army—The Envoy at the End of His Resources.

WASHINGTON, March 17.

A rebel flag, captured at Fort Anderson by the 140th Indiana volunteers, was to-day presented to Governor Morton, of that State, in front of the National Hotel. A large crowd of people was in attendance. Governor Morton made a brief speech, in the course of which he congratulated his auditors on the speedy end of the rebellion, and concluded by introducing President Lincoln, whose purity and patriotism, he said, were confessed by all even amongst the most violent agitators. [Applause.]

His Administration will be recognized as the most important epoch of history. It struck the death-blow to slavery [applause] and built up the Republic with a power it had never before possessed. If he had done nothing more than to put his name to the Emancipation Proclamation, that act alone would have made his name immortal. [Applause.]

The President addressed the assembly substantially as follows:

"FELLOW-CITIZENS.—It will be but a few words that I shall undertake to say. I was born in Kentucky, raised in Indiana, and live in Illinois [laughter] and I am now here, where it is my duty to be, to care equally for the good people of all the States. I am glad to see an Indiana regiment, on this day, able to present this captured flag to the Governor of the State of Indiana. [Applause.] I am not disposed in saying this, to make distinction between States for all have done equally well. [Applause.]

There are but few views or aspects of this great war upon which I have not said or written something whereby my own views might be made known. There is one—the recent attempt of our "erring brethren," as they are sometimes called [laughter], to employ the negro to fight for them. I have neither written nor made a speech upon that subject, because that was their business and not mine; and if they had a wish upon the subject, I had not the power to introduce it or make it effective. The great question with them was, whether the negro, being put into the army, would fight for them? I do not know, and therefore cannot decide. [laughter.] They ought to know better, we and you know, I have in my life, heard many arguments why the negro ought to be a slave, but if they fight for those who would keep them in slavery, it will be a better argument than any I have yet heard. [laughter and applause.]

Mr. Spinner attributed the violent fluctuations in the value of gold to the factious demand that was created for it. This led to the following:

"Mr. Brent—Do you consider it a fact that demand for a party who wants to buy gold when it is down, and sell it when it is up, so as to increase his paper capital?"

"It does, undoubtedly.

Mr. Bradley—Do you consider it a fact that the government, by collecting its customs in gold, does not necessarily create a demand for gold on the part of the importers of merchandise?

"A. Yes, sir.

"Q. Well, sir, in that ratio the government by requiring the payment of duties in gold, depreciates its own currency?"

"A. It does, undoubtedly.

Mr. Bradley—Do you consider it a fact that the government, by collecting its customs in gold, does not necessarily create a demand for gold on the part of the importers of merchandise?

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